

Message Text

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EA/J - MR. HUBBARD

BF/OAG - MR. QUAID

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R 291355Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, JA

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: EAST-WEST TRADE

REF: TOKYO 10410, TOKYO 11121

1. WE RAISED WITH JOHN E. MILGATE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, GAO, EMBASSY'S CONCERNS AS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS AND URGED THAT RETURN VISIT TO TOKYO BE CANCELLED OR CURTAILED. EMPHASIZED UNLIKELIHOOD OF ACQUIRING SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SENSITIVITY OF JAPANESE TO APPEARANCE OF BEING INVESTIGATED BY U.S. WITH POSSIBLE ATTENDANT IMPAIRMENT EMBASSY RELATIONSHIPS WITH JAPANESE, AND BURDEN ON EMBASSY AT ONSET OF SERIES OF MAJOR BILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL VISITS.

2. MILGATE WAS UNWILLING TO CANCEL VISIT BUT WAS RECEPTIVE TO VALIDITY OF POINTS MADE. HE FELT FAR EAST TEAM MIGHT NOT BE AS EXPERIENCED AS EUROPEAN TEAM. HE AGREED TO FOLLOWING APPROACH, WHICH HE WILL PASS ON TO ROMAN, DIRECTOR FAR EAST BRANCH GAO INTERNATIONAL DIVISION:

A. REEXAMINE TIME FRAME FOR VISIT WITH OBJECTIVE OF CONTRACTING IT;
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B. HAVE SMITH/VAN DYK DRAW UP LIST SPECIFIC TOPICS OR QUESTIONS TO BE PURSUED AND REVIEW WITH EMBASSY WITH A VIEW TO LIMITING THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND ELIMINATING SENSITIVE OR COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE QUESTIONS;

C. ADVISE CLOSELY WITH EMBASSY WITH VIEW TO CURTAILING UNREWARDING FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS.

3. MILGATE EXPRESSED GENERAL WILLINGNESS COOPERATE WITH DEPARTMENT. IF SERIOUS PROBLEMS DEVELOP LET US KNOW AND WE WILL TAKE THEM UP WITH HIM. KISSINGER

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